

Wayne Allard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2004

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SENATOR ALLARD CALLS FOR SWIFT REMOVAL OF 'PREBLE'S' MOUSE FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

Scientist testifies separate species listing has been shown to be invalid

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) on Wednesday called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to expedite the process of removing the so-called “Preble’s meadow jumping mouse” from the endangered species list after testimony by zoologist Dr. Rob Roy Ramey II in the House Resources Committee indicated definitively that the creature identified as “Preble’s” is not a separate species.

In a letter to USFWS Director Steve Williams, Senator Allard urged the agency to speed up the process of getting “Preble’s” off the endangered list.

“Finally sound science has been brought to bear on this disputed listing,” Senator Allard said. “While we waited, countless public and private projects in Colorado have been held hostage to the misidentification of a species that doesn’t exist.”

“For more than six years, Colorado’s elected officials and private citizens have had to postpone or cancel projects while this debate played out,” Senator Allard said.

“This episode has made it clear that we need sound scientific information – up front, before a listing is made – not opinion-driven decisions on these crucial listings,” the Senator said. “This is a primary example of how the lack of proper documentation can result in unnecessary and costly delays.”

“It is incumbent upon the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now to move swiftly to reverse this costly mistaken identification. I’ve been told the de-listing process by USFWS could take as long as a year, and that is unacceptable,” Senator Allard said. “They need to move quickly in order to avoid holding these projects hostage to bad science any longer.”

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